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Evidence: Pamela Smart is dressed in a bikini in the photographs she gave teen-age lover.

Pacific Rim viewers titillated

Smart case attracts Japanese

By Linda Bean
Eagle-Tribune Writer

EXETER, N.H. — Japanese television viewers have never seen illicit sex and bloody murder unfold live in a courtroom, officials from a Japanese television station said yesterday.

The publicity surrounding Pamela Smart's recent trial "is something unheard of in Japan," said Yukiko Tanabe, the New York assistant producer for TV Asahi, Tokyo.

Producer Yumiko Suzuki, anchorwoman Misuzu Tamaru and Ms. Tanabe were at Rockingham County Courthouse yesterday to film a segment for their "60 Minutes"-type program, "The Scoop."

Ms. Tanabe said the 15- to 20-minute segment will run Saturday and it will focus on the Smart accom-

plice-to-murder case and the American tradition of allowing reporters and cameras in courtroom, Ms. Tanabe said.

In Japan, reporters are allowed to listen to the testimony, but there are no cameras allowed. Courtroom artists are employed by most major news outlets, Ms. Tanabe said.

"The court is not as much of a familiar place to most Japanese as it is to Americans," she said.

Ms. Tamaru, described by her colleagues as a "rising young anchor," said her viewing public appreciates scandal as much its American counterparts do.

"We were first discussing what has attracted American's attention after the war," she said. "The answer was the Pamela Smart case."